

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 201610Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9460

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 7210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN MEDIA ON THE NEGOTIATIONS AND BILL BUCKLEY

1. THE ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND THE AMERICAN NEGOTIATING TEAM HAS RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE BUT UNSPECTACULAR PLAY IN THE MORNING PRESS. SIMILARLY, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE HAS BEEN MODERATE.

2. AMBASSADOR BUNKER DID NOT MAKE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS. BOYD SAID, "AFTER A LONG SUMMER RECESS, WE HOPE TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS MADE ON EACH OF THE EIGHT POINTS OF THE AGREEMENT OF PRINCIPLES SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 1974." HE SAID THAT HE INTERPRETED THE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME "AS A SIGN THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE REGARDLESS OF THE RESULTS OF THE U.S. ELECTIONS".

3. BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF MUCH IN THE WAY OF COMMENT BY EITHER SIDE, THE MORNING PAPERS PADDED THEIR STORIES WITH BACKGROUND. ESTRELLA USED AN EXTENSIVE QUOTATION FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT HARVARD PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPLIED BY USIS.

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4. THE PRESS IS GIVING MUCH MORE ATTENTION TO WILLIAM F.

BUCKLEY'S COLUMNS ON PANAMA, WHICH ARE WIDELY INTERPRETED HERE AS BEING A MAJOR TRIUMPH FOR PANAMA IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF THE CANAL. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION ADVISER FABIAN VELARDE WROTE A LONG GLOSS ON THE BUCKLEY VISIT, WHICH APPEARED IN THIS MORNING'S ESTRELLA AND MATUTINO. MATUTINO ALSO CARRIED THE COMPLETE TEXT OF TWO BUCKLEY COLUMNS, ONE ON HIS INTERVIEW WITH TORRIJOS, AND THE OTHER PROPOSING THAT THE U.S. GET OUT OF THE CANAL BUSINESS IN PANAMA. CRITICA AND MATUTINO CARRY EDITORIALS OF LINE-BY-LINE EXEGESIS OF BUCKLEY'S COLUMNS CAREFULLY POINTING OUT WHERE BUCKLEY IS "RIGHT" AND WHERE HE IS "WRONG". ARCHBISHOP MCGRATH IS (JUSTLY) GIVEN MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR PREPARING THIS PARTICULAR ROAD TO DAMASCUS FOR BUCKLEY.
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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